

# *American Outlook*

**American Citizen Services  
United States Mission, Turkey  
Summer 2008 Newsletter**

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*Featured in this quarter's issue:*

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## **New Deputy Chief of Mission of Embassy Ankara**

Mission Turkey welcomed the arrival of the new Deputy Chief of Mission, Doug Silliman, on July 3. The previous Deputy Chief of Mission, Nancy McElDowney, is U.S. Ambassador-designate to Bulgaria, and departed Ankara in late spring.

Doug Silliman's career has included assignments in Haiti, Tunisia, Pakistan and Jordan. He also served at State Department headquarters in Washington D.C. in a number of key positions, including Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs, and as Regional Officer for the Middle East in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

Mr. Silliman received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science summa cum laude from Baylor University in Texas, and a Master's in International Relations from the George Washington University in Washington D.C.

He is married and has two sons.



## **Attacks to the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul**

On July 9, a terrorist attack on the Turkish police guarding the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul resulted in the death of three police officers and wounding of other police personnel; there have been no reported injuries involving Consulate employees or family members.

As security is increased at official U.S. facilities, terrorists may seek softer targets. These can include facilities where Americans and Westerners are known to live or congregate. U.S. citizens are urged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to maintain a low profile throughout Turkey. We reiterate Department of State advice to American citizens to take prudent steps to ensure their personal safety. Remain aware of your surroundings, listen to news reports, avoid crowds and demonstrations, and vary your times and routes for all travel. In order to receive the Embassy's security

messages, you may register yourself with the Embassy or Consulate in Turkey at [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration\\_1186.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration_1186.html)



## **The New Traffic Regulation in Turkey: In Case of an Accident:**

A new traffic regulation took effect in Turkey on April 1, 2008. Under the new law, Turkish citizens and foreigners who are involved in traffic accidents with material damage – but without personal injury or death – may negotiate among themselves without calling the police to the site. If all parties involved agree on the details of what happened, they will jointly fill out a form explaining the accident and submit it to their insurance agents. However, this form is available only in Turkish, and will not be available in English. Therefore foreign residents involved in car accidents have been advised to contact their insurance agents immediately after any crash they are involved in so that they can deal with all aspects of the accident. The claims of both parties will then be settled by their agents.

The new system does not discriminate between Turkish citizens and expats, as

both sides will be able to benefit from the practice. However, the evaluation process will be quicker if you have local traffic insurance obtained from an insurance company based in Turkey. Foreigners who have a “green card” for traffic insurance obtained from another country that is valid in Turkey will still be able to fill out this form, but in the process of fault evaluation the green card company in the foreign country will have to negotiate with the Turkish traffic insurance companies, which will prolong the procedures and extend the duration of the process. Foreign traffic insurance companies are not included in the Turkish fault evaluation system.

If the parties involved in a traffic accident do not agree on the course of events, or if the accidents involve drivers under the age of 18, or if they appear under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or if pedestrians are injured, or if public property, such as traffic lights, street lights, or signs are damaged as a result of road accidents, the old system will remain in effect and the traffic police or gendarmerie will need to be involved. In this case, drivers should not move their cars and should call the Traffic Police (Tel: 154) or Gendarme (Tel: 156). That report will then need to be certified by the nearest local authority. The owner should apply to the customs authority with his passport and report. If the vehicle can be repaired, it is necessary to inform the customs authority first and then take the vehicle to a garage. If the vehicle is not repairable and if the owner wishes to leave the country without his vehicle, he must deliver it to the nearest customs office, and the registration of his vehicle on his passport will be cancelled. (Only

after the cancellation can the owner of the vehicle leave the country.)

Traffic police will begin cracking down on offenses such as driving through red lights with the use of mobile cameras. Drivers who run red lights five times in a year will have their licenses revoked. Enforcement of laws regarding seatbelts, use of cell phones while driving, drunk driving and speeding will be enhanced under the new traffic regulation. Police also intend to use more radar traps to catch speeding drivers.



## **Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) Disease in Turkey**

In recent weeks there have been several reports of a tick borne viral disease called Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever that can cause serious illness. This virus is an emerging disease in Turkey, but so far all human cases have been centered around the village of Tokat and areas north of Ankara. Media have reported

several unconfirmed cases of and deaths from Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in Turkey during 2008 . Most cases were reportedly contracted in the provinces of Tokat, Corum, Sivas, Amasya, Yozgat and Gumushane in northern Turkey. No cases have been reported from Mediterranean tourist resorts.

CCHF is an emerging disease in Turkey. Although serological evidence suggests the disease has been present in Turkey for decades, the first clinical cases were reported in 2002. In 2006 the World Health Organization reported an outbreak of 242 laboratory-confirmed CCHF cases, including 20 deaths. This was an increase over the number of cases reported in previous years.

The Turkish Ministry of Health recently issued a statement warning people about ticks. In case of a tick bite the skin should be treated with an antiseptic. The tick should be removed by doctors using tweezers with great care and iodine should be applied to the bite. Health Ministry officials stress that ticks should never be killed by hand.

Anyone who suspects they have been bitten by a tick should seek medical treatment as soon as possible. According to Health Ministry officials, if a tick bite is confirmed, the patient will likely be kept under medical observation for 10 days, and should go to the nearest hospital if they have symptoms such as fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

CCHF mainly affects animals. Ticks, which live on sheep and cattle, can sometimes pass the virus to people. Patients with this disease can bleed to

death if they are not treated quickly. Those infected can transmit the virus through their blood or saliva. The disease is endemic in parts of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Health authorities said a warmer climate, which Turkey has experienced in recent years, could mean a larger tick population that could in turn infect more people with the disease.



## **The “Global Entry” Pilot Program: Self-Service Passport Control at 3 U.S. Airports**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began processing applications on May 12, 2008, for the Global Entry pilot program, which will let participating frequent travelers skip the line for passport control, using self-service passport control kiosks, instead. This program is designed to expedite entry screening and processing for low-risk, frequent international travelers entering the United States.

Global Entry will be available for U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents who are frequent international travelers,

provided they have not been found guilty of a criminal offense, charged with a customs or immigration offense, or declared inadmissible to the U.S. under immigration regulations. Biometric fingerprint technology will be used to verify the passenger's identity and confirm his or her status as a Global Entry participant.

The program will kick off on June 10, 2008, at three initial airports: John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York; George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston; and Washington Dulles International Airport.

Applications for enrollment in the Global Entry program are available through the Global On-Line Enrollment System (GOES) at <https://goes-app.cbp.dhs.gov/>

The Global Entry application process consists of three steps:

1. An applicant must complete and submit an online application through GOES and pay a \$100 fee through <https://www.pay.gov>
2. CBP officers will review the applicant's information and conduct a background investigation.
3. Finally, the applicant will undergo an interview with CBP officers at an Enrollment Center at JFK, Houston or Dulles Airports.

Upon returning from international travel, passengers enrolled in the Global Entry program may bypass the regular passport control line and proceed directly to the Global Entry kiosk. At the kiosk, the Global Entry traveler will

activate the system by inserting his or her passport or U.S. permanent resident card into the document reader.

The kiosk will direct the traveler to electronically provide his or her fingerprints and will compare that biometric data with the fingerprint biometrics on file. A digital photograph will also be taken of the traveler as part of the transaction record.

Finally, the traveler will be prompted to answer several CBP customs declaration questions posted on the kiosk's touch-screen. Once the process is successfully completed, the traveler will be issued a transaction receipt which must be presented to the CBP officer as the participant leaves the CBP inspection area.



## **Economic Stimulus Payments - Exceptions**

The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) recently mailed an information package about the new Economic Stimulus Payments to 130 million households and individuals who regularly file tax returns.

It is important to understand that these Economic Stimulus Payments are not

applicable or available to the following individuals:

- Non resident aliens.
- People who are claimed as dependents or eligible to be claimed as dependents on another's tax return.
- Those individuals who do not have a SSN (social security number).
- Please click here for more information.

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=179201,00.html>



## **“U.S. Students Abroad” Website**

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs recently launched a public affairs campaign called "Students Abroad" that targets United States citizen college students and young people studying and traveling internationally.



This campaign promotes safe, smart travel overseas for college students and spring-breakers. The campaign centers on a new website, <http://studentsabroad.state.gov>, which offers U.S. college students a one-stop reference for international travel.

This website also offers flyers called "Go Guides" that students and universities can download, as well as a travel wallet card. The campaign's slogan "Go From Here" signals that the "U.S. Students Abroad" should be the first stop on every American student's trip overseas.



## **Election Basics – Are you Registered to Vote Absentee?**

### **First Step First – The FPCA**

The Federal Post Card Application Form (FPCA; SF-76) is the first step of the absentee voting process. This form is accepted by all states and territories as a simultaneous request for registration and/or an absentee ballot. The current version of the form is dated October 2005; however, the 1995 version of the form is still in circulation and remains a valid registration and absentee ballot request form.

U.S. Citizens voting under the  
Uniformed and Overseas Citizens

Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are eligible to participate in all elections for Federal offices in their state of legal residence. Many of these citizens are also eligible to vote in state and local elections as well.

Because election laws vary from state to state, we recommend you consult the 2008-2009 Voting Assistance Guide for specific information regarding your state's laws. The Voting Assistance Guide contains state-by-state procedures for UOCAVA citizens to register and/or request an absentee ballot using the FPCA. All shaded areas for your state or territory as indicated in the Voting Assistance Guide must be completed. The Guide is available on-line at the following website:

<http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html>

Please be aware that American citizens may mail all voting materials through the APO/FPO or diplomatic pouch. Those wishing to send materials via diplomatic pouch should drop them off in the American Citizen Services section of the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

Voters using the online FPCA or FWAB, and those who are returning a ballot via U.S. postal channels (including APO/FPO or diplomatic pouch), may print out the attached prepaid mailing label directly onto an envelope or mailing label sticker in order to take advantage of free postage. Please do not try to print the label on regular paper and then tape or glue it to an envelope – this can result in your envelope getting torn or stuck in mail sorting equipment.



## Things to Remember When Filling Out the FPCA

Fill out ALL blocks shaded in your state or territories' instructions in the Guide.

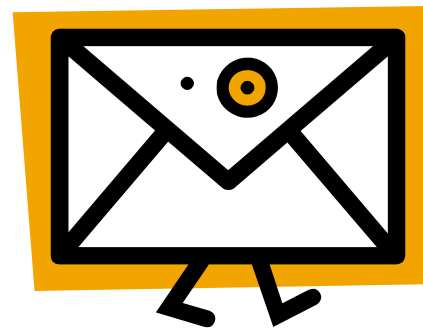
When filling out Block 3, "My Voting Residence," you must include a complete street address of where you actually lived in the state or territory in which you are voting, in order for the Local Election Official to place you in the proper voting precinct. A post office box is not appropriate. If your address includes a Rural Route, use Block 6 "Additional Information" to indicate the specific location of your residence. For example, state "2 miles south of the intersection of Route 9 and I-34." This address should be different from your Block 4 address and must be within the county or township where you claim legal voting residence.

When filling out Block 4.a, "Where to Send My Voting Materials," enter the complete mailing address where you are currently living and where you wish to receive your absentee ballots. This address must be different from your Block 3 address. If you will have a new mailing address by the time election

materials will be sent to you, please be sure to indicate this address here.

In order to vote in Presidential or state primaries, most states and territories require that you specify your party affiliation in Block 5. Refer to the Voting Assistance Guide for specific information regarding your state's primary elections.

If you use the online version of the FPCA, be careful where you download the form. The official online version of the FPCA is available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and each Service's website. County websites may include a version of the form to be used by citizens voting in a specific jurisdiction. Make sure you are eligible to use that form and vote in that jurisdiction before downloading and completing the form.



## Some suggestions on mailing voting materials

American citizens can mail voting materials for free (using the prepaid mailing label available online) through the APO/FPO or diplomatic pouch, but the total transit time is most likely to be much longer than Turkish international mail. Those wishing to send materials via diplomatic pouch should drop them



off in the American Citizen Services section of the US Embassy, or their consulate. If you use Turkish international mail, you will need to buy Turkish postage stamps sufficient to cover your letter's trip to the U.S.

Voters should check the FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) to learn which states accept electronic transmission (fax or email) of voting materials. Very few states are currently accepting electronic transmission. Voters choosing to fax their voting materials in a state that accepts this method should make sure to use the electronic transmission cover sheet for each FPCA or ballot sent (see p. 433 of the VAG).

Voters using the online FPCA or FWAB, and who are returning a ballot via U.S. postal channels (including APO/FPO or diplomatic pouch), can print out the prepaid mailing label on an envelope and use this envelope to take advantage of free postage.



## How to Verify Voter Registration Status Online

Many of the States and U.S. Territories are making it easy to determine voter registration status online. Listed below

are the twenty-eight states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, which have web sites where voters may check their registration status. The website addresses listed below are subject to change.

Please check

<http://www.fvap.gov/vao/stregissites.html> for updates.

Arizona:

[https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/select\\_language.do](https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/select_language.do)

Arkansas: <https://www.voterview.arizona.org/>

Colorado:

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/Voter/voterHome.do;jsessionid=0000QIBp7qrdd1E9ysKzDFyDdlc:121vl9gps>

Delaware:

<http://pollingplace.delaware.gov/>

District of Columbia:

[www.dcboee.org/voterreg/vic\\_step1.asp](http://www.dcboee.org/voterreg/vic_step1.asp)

Georgia: [www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/Locator.asp](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/Locator.asp)

Indiana:

<http://www.indianavoters.com/PublicSite/Public/FT1/PublicLookupMain.aspx?Link=Polling>

Iowa:

[www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/VoterReg/RegToVote/search.aspx](http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/VoterReg/RegToVote/search.aspx)

Kansas: <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/>

Kentucky:

<https://cdcbp.ky.gov/VICWeb/index.jsp>

Louisiana:

<https://pollinglocator.sos.louisiana.gov/>

Maryland: <http://mdelections.umbc.edu/>

Note: This site has a sample ballot.

Michigan:

<http://michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-49313--,00.html>

Nebraska:

<https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>

Nevada: [www.nvsos.gov/elections/](http://www.nvsos.gov/elections/)

New Mexico:

<https://voterview.state.nm.us/>

New York:

<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

North Carolina:

[www.sboe.state.nc.us/VoterLookup.aspx](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/VoterLookup.aspx) NOTE: You can check the status of your absentee ballot at this site also.

Ohio:

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/voterquery.aspx?page=361](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/voterquery.aspx?page=361)

Pennsylvania:

[www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?a=1206&Q=446253&sureNav=](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?a=1206&Q=446253&sureNav=)

Puerto Rico:

<http://cee.ceepur.org/consulta/default.aspx> NOTE: This site is in Spanish and you need your voter registration number to verify your status.

Rhode Island: [www.sec.state.ri.us/vic/](http://www.sec.state.ri.us/vic/)

South Carolina:

<https://webprod.cio.sc.gov/SCSECVoterWeb/voterInformationSearch.do>

South Dakota:

<http://apps.sd.gov/applications/st25cers/>

Texas:

<https://voterinfo.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/SearchSelectionVoter.jsp>

Utah:

<http://gva1.utah.gov/elections/polling.aspx>

Virginia:

<https://www.voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/PublicSite/Public/FT2/PublicLookup.aspx?Link=Registration>

Washington:

<https://wei.secstate.wa.gov/onlinevoteregistration/Registration.aspx>

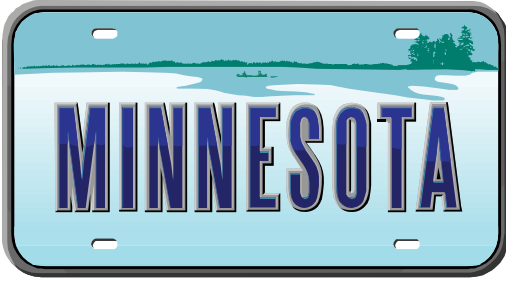
West Virginia:

[www.wvvotes.com/voters/am-i-registered.php](http://www.wvvotes.com/voters/am-i-registered.php)

Wisconsin:

<http://elections.state.wi.us/category.asp?linkcatid=1773&linkid=270&locid=47>

NOTE: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.



## Information for Minnesota Voters

The State of Minnesota has enacted a new law that allows uniformed services and overseas voters to receive their blank absentee ballots by fax or e-mail. It also allows voters to send their FPCA for ballot request only by fax or e-mail. Voters may also use a "State Write-In Absentee Ballot" for state and local elections, and the new law also removes the requirement that Federal Post Card Applications or ballot envelopes be notarized or witnessed.

Voters who receive their absentee ballot by fax or e-mail must return the voted ballot to the county auditor in a sealed envelope. The State Write-In Absentee Ballot is for citizens who will be outside the U.S. during the 180-day period preceding the general election (and requested an official absentee ballot) and may be used as a ballot for all elections within that timeframe.

The State of Minnesota previously required that applications or ballots be notarized or witnessed by an individual authorized to administer oaths when a citizen did not provide a military identification card number or a passport number. Instead, the citizen now attests to the truthfulness of the contents under penalty of perjury.

Additional information regarding the provisions of this law is available online by visiting the Minnesota Secretary of State's web site at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=10&recordid=250>.

Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1155 or through email: [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

Visit the FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for more information.



## The Upcoming Holidays

The Embassy will be closed on the following American and Turkish holidays:

September 1 (Monday) - Labor Day  
September 29-October 2 (Monday-Thursday) - Ramadan Holiday  
October 13 (Monday) - Columbus Day  
October 28-29 (Tuesday-Wednesday) - Turkish Independence Day



## Our Contact Info

Contact information for the U.S.  
Embassy and Consulates in Turkey:

**Ankara:** 110 Ataturk Boulevard  
Tel: (90)(312) 455-5555  
Fax (90)(312) 468-6131  
<http://ankara.usembassy.gov>

**Istanbul:** Kaplilar Mevkii Sokak No.  
2, 34460, Istinye, Sariyer,  
Tel: (90) (212) 335-9000  
Fax (90) (212) 335-9102  
<http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov>

**Adana:** Girne Bulvari No. 212,  
Guzelevler Mahallesi, Yuregir  
Tel: (90)(322) 346-6262  
Fax (90)(322) 346-7916  
<http://adana.usconsulate.gov>

**Izmir Consular Agent:**  
(90)(232) 464-8755